

In the Claims:

--1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes an AGS protein, comprising a nucleotide sequence having at least [86%] 90% identity to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or the complement thereof.--

--2. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which comprises a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% identity to the nucleotide sequence of [SEQ ID NO:1 or] SEQ ID NO:3, or the complement of [SEQ ID NO:1 or] SEQ ID NO:3.--

--42. (Amended) A method for modulating G protein coupled signal transduction in a cell comprising contacting a cell with an agent which modulates AGS protein activity or AGS nucleic acid expression such that G protein coupled signal transduction is modulated in the cell, when compared with G protein coupled signal transduction in the cell in the absence of the agent, wherein the AGS protein stimulates G protein activity in a receptor-independent manner.--

REMARKS